

Pond Bluff  
Near Luta Springs  
Orangeburg County  
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-59

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office  
for Southeast Unit

## POND BLUFF

Near Eutaw Springs, Orangeburg County, South Carolina

Owner: Santee-Cooper Hydroelectric and Navigation Project

Date of erection: c. 1820

Present condition: Good; in danger of inundation

Description:

Pond Bluff, on the bluff above the Santee river swamps, is the smallest of the plantation houses of the region but, set in well cultivated fields, shaded by a huge live oak and bright with fresh paint, it is perhaps the most attractive of them all. Its low gable roof, which continues over the front porch and rear shed, relates well to the terrain which rises smoothly to the house on both front and rear. The porch, which extends across the front, has slender tapered square posts and a railing of light rectangular balusters. The house retains its original beaded weatherboards on sides and rear. The gable and front wall are covered with the original horizontal flush boarding. This treatment of the gable parallels other attempts to make the gable assume the form of a classic pediment.

Against the flush sheathing of the front wall the doorways are well displayed. The doors are six-panel, with glazed transoms and an architrave surround. Between the two architraves in the center mullion is a narrow paneled space and above, spanning the two openings and the mullion, are a frieze and a dentiled cornice. This is a comparatively simple treatment, but it is very agreeable.

The plan comprises a pair of equal drawing rooms in the front with an intercommunicating door, and a door to the porch from each. These rooms have a pair of windows on each outside wall and a fireplace in the rear wall, with a door to the hall at one side. This rear hall has a stair against one wall and a pair of closets facing it. At the rear are the doors to the flanking rooms. An extension in the rear takes the form of a covered porch at the end of the hall, with a small room at either side. These latter are heated by chimneys built against the side wall. The rear extension, duplicating the outline of the front porch, serves to balance the side elevation.

The interior trim is simply treated. The drawing rooms have sunk paneled dados, walnut fireplace surrounds moulded like broad architraves, and six-panel doors with simple trim. There

are no cornices at the ceiling line. While the stair has plain balusters and posts, a paneled dado occurs against the wall both on the horizontal and the rake. The ascent of the stair is characteristic, but in order to obtain headroom at the landing a large projection occurs on the roof.

Additional data:

Pond Bluff was erected as a dower house for Springfield, on the site of an earlier house which was built by General Francis Marion but destroyed by fire in 1816.

--From "A Survey of the Early Buildings in the Region of the Proposed Santee and Pinopolis Reservoirs in South Carolina," by Thomas T. Waterman

Author: T. Waterman

Approved: 10/11/40

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to:

Pond Bluff (Keating Simons Plantation House)  
Approximately 6 miles east of Eutaw Springs  
Eutaw Springs Vicinity  
Orangeburg County  
South Carolina

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PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
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